Pesce 1 of 10

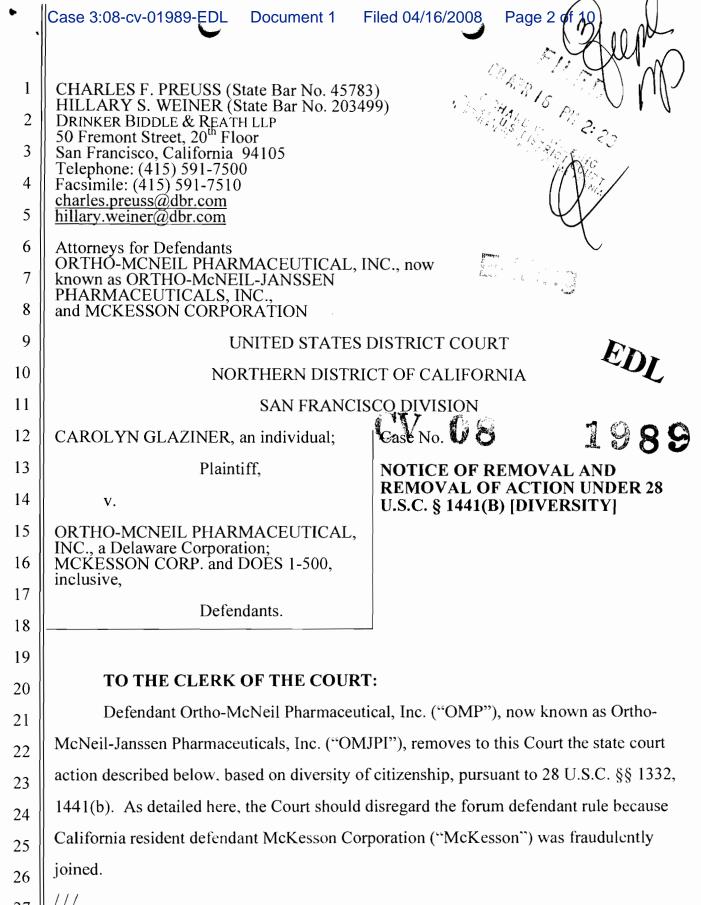
S JS 44 (Rev. 12/07) (cand rev 1-16-08)

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON PAGE TWO OF THE FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS				DEFENDANTS	DEFENDANTS			
CAROLYN GLAZINER, et al.				ORTHO-MCNEIL PHARMACEUTICAL, INC., et al.				
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Terra Haute, IN (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)				County of Residence of First Listed Defendant Raritan, NJ (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY) NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE LAND INVOLVED.				
(c) Attorney's (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)				Attorneys (If Known)				
Shaw Khorrami, Esq. (213) 596-6000 Dylan Pollard, Esq. Khorrami, Pollard & Abir, LLP 44 S. Flower Street, 33rd Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90071				Charles F. Preuss, Esq. (415) 591-7500 Hillary S. Weiner, Esq. Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP 50 Fremont Street, 20th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94105				
II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Ouly)				ITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff (For Diversity Cases Only) and One Box for Defendant)				
1 U.S. Government 3 Federal Question Plaintiff (U.S. Government Not a Party)			Citizen of This State PTF DEF Citizen of This State I I Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State					
2 U.S. Government Defendant (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)		Ci	itizen of Another State 🗶 2	2 Incorporated and Princ of Business In Ar				
			Ci	itizen or Subject of a 3 Foreign Country	3 Foreign Nation	6 6		
IV. NATURE OF SUIT (Place								
CONTRACT 110 Insurance 120 Marine 130 Miller Aet 140 Negotiable Instrument 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment 151 Medicare Act 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excl. Veterans) 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits 160 Stockholders' Suits 190 Other Contract 195 Contract Product Liability 196 Franchise REAL PROPERTY 210 Land Condemnation 220 Foreclosure 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment 240 Torts to Land 245 Tort Product Liability 290 All Other Real Property		RTS PERSONAL INJ 363 Personal Injun Med. Mahrac 363 Personal Injun Product Liabi 368 Asbestos Pers Injury Produc Liability PERSONAL PROP 370 Other Fraud 371 Truth in Lend 380 Other Persona Property Dam 385 Property Dam Product Liabi PRISONEL PETITION 510 Motions to Vis Sentence Habeas Corpus: 530 General 533 Death Penalty 540 Mandamus & 550 Civil Rights	ry— trice ry— lity onal t ERTY ing il aage lity S acate Other	FORFEITURE/PENALT 610 Agriculture 620 Other Food & Drug 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 88 630 Liquor Laws 640 R. R. & Truck 650 Airline Regs. 660 Occupational Safety/Health 690 Other LABOR 710 Fair Labor Standards Act	422 Appeal 28 USC 158 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 PROPERTY RIGHTS 820 Copyrights 830 Patent 840 Trademark SOCIAL SECURITY 861 HIA (1395ff) 862 Black Lung (923) 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) 864 SSID Title XVI 865 RSI (405(g)) FEDERAL TAX SUITS 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) 871 IRS—Third Party 26 LISC 7609	OTHER STATUTES 400 State Reapportionment 410 Antitrust 430 Banks and Banking 450 Commerce 460 Deportation 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations 480 Consumer Credit 490 Cable/Sat TV 810 Selective Service 850 Securities/Commodities/ Exchange 12 USC 3410 890 Other Statutory Actions 891 Agricultural Acts 892 Economic Stabilization Act 893 Environmental Matters 894 Energy Allocation Act 895 Freedom of Information Act 900Appeal of Fee Determination Under Equal Access to Justice 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes		
V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in C 1 Original 2 Removed Proceeding State Cou	d from 3 Rema	late Court	Reope			Appeal to District 7 Judge from Magistrate Judgment y):		
VI. CAUSE OF ACTION 28 U.S.C. Section 1332 Brief description of cause			—					
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT: CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER E.R. C. P. 23				DEMAND \$ 75,000+ CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint JURY DEMAND: Yes No				
VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY		TO CIVIL E.R. 3	-12/0	NCERNING REQUIREM	ENT TO FILE			
IX. DIVISIONAL ASSIGNME (PLACE AND "X" IN ONE BO DATE April 16, 2008			/	FRANCISCO/OAKLAN	D □ SAN JOSE			

ORIGINAL



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San Francisco, CA 94105

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SEL372038.2

BACKGROUND

1. On November 15, 2007, the Southern California law firms of Khorrami, Pollard & Abir, LLP and Kabateck Brown Kellner LLP, along with the Colorado law firm of Burg Simpson Eldredge Hersh Jardine PC, filed a Complaint in a personal injury action in the Superior Court of California, County of San Francisco, entitled Carolyn Glaziner. v. Ortho-McNeil Pharmaceutical, Inc., McKesson Corp., and Does 1-500, *inclusive*, Case Number CGC-07-469227. A copy of the Complaint in that San Francisco County state court action (the "Complaint") is attached as Exhibit A to the accompanying Declaration of Hillary S. Weiner ("Weiner Dec.").

The plaintiff in the action is a resident of Terre Haute, Indiana, who seeks damages for "potentially fatal side effects" she allegedly suffered from using the Ortho Evra® contraceptive patch, available only by prescription and manufactured by OMP, now known as OMJPI. (Complaint ¶¶ 1-2 and 10.) Plaintiff alleges causes of action for Negligence, Strict Liability Failure to Warn, Breach of Express Warranty, Breach of Implied Warranty, Negligent Misrepresentation, and Fraud against OMP, a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business in New Jersey, now known as OMJPI, a Pennsylvania corporation, also with its principal place of business in New Jersey. (Complaint ¶ 11; Weiner Dec. ¶ 3.) Although devoid of any factual allegations against McKesson, plaintiff's Complaint asserts those same claims against McKesson, a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business in San Francisco, California, whom plaintiff – a resident of Indiana – alleges "distributed and sold Ortho Evra in and throughout the State of California." (Complaint ¶¶ 3, 16; Declaration of Greg Yonko, filed in Abel, Theresa, et al. v. Ortho-McNeil Pharmaceutical, Inc., et al., USDC ND CA Case No. C 06 7551 SBA ("Yonko Dec."), attached to the Weiner Dec. as Exhibit B, ¶ 2.)

BASIS FOR JURISDICTION

2. Basis for Jurisdiction in this Court. This Court has original jurisdiction over this action, and OMP, now known as OMJPI, may properly remove to this Court,

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because the amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000, exclusive of interest and costs and
there is diversity of citizenship of all named parties. 28 U.S.C. §§ 1332, 1441(a).
Although McKesson is a resident of the forum, the forum defendant rule does not prevent
this Court from taking jurisdiction of this action. Lively v. Wild Oats Markets, Inc., 456
F.3d 933 (9 th Cir. 2006) (holding that forum defendant rule limitation on diversity-based
removal jurisdiction is a procedural, or non-jurisdictional, rule). Further, because
McKesson was fraudulently joined, that rule should not apply.

a. Amount in Controversy. Pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure Section 425.10(b), the amount of damages sought by plaintiff is not stated in the Complaint. However, plaintiff claims that she "suffered and/or may continue to suffer potentially fatal side effects such as strokes, pulmonary emboli, blood clots, deep vein thrombosis, and heart attacks" from using Ortho Evra®. (Complaint ¶ 1; see also ¶ 39, alleging that plaintiff "suffered from strokes, pulmonary emboli, blood clots, deep vein thrombosis, and heart attacks, as well as other severe permanent health problems.") Plaintiff further alleges that OMP, now known as OMJPI, engaged in "fraudulent" and "reckless" conduct, giving rise to punitive damages claims. (See e.g. Complaint ¶¶ 51D, 65, 75, 90, 104.)

Given the nature of plaintiff's claims, and a review of damages awards and settlement amounts in this judicial district, in cases involving allegations of serious injuries from the use of prescription drugs or medical devices, it is reasonably believed that, if plaintiff succeeded in proving the allegations of the Complaint, she would recover a minimum of \$75,000 in damages. (Weiner Dec. ¶ 10.) Indeed, plaintiffs claiming substantially similar injuries in the Ortho Evra® MDL have specifically alleged that the amount in controversy in their respective actions exceeds \$75,000, exclusive of interest and costs. (*Id.*)

It is therefore "facially apparent" from the nature of the claims alleged and the types of damages sought that the amount in controversy in this action exceeds \$75,000, exclusive of interest and costs. *See White v. FCI USA, Inc.*, 319 F.3d 672, 674 (5th Cir.

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2003) (it was "facially apparent" that claim exceeded \$75,000 based on plaintiff's
"lengthy list of compensatory and punitive damages"); see also In re Rezulin Products
Liability Litigation, 133 F.Supp.2d 272, 296 (S.D.N.Y. 2001) (concluding that complaint
"obviously asserts a claim exceeding \$75,000" where plaintiff seeks "compensatory and
punitive damages" for alleged "serious and life-threatening medical conditions" due to
use of prescription medicine); International Padi, Inc. v. Diverlink, 2005 WL 1635347,
*1 (9 th Cir. Cal. 2005) (court considered plaintiffs' general allegations of unspecified
general and special damages "reasonably believed to be in excess of the jurisdictional
limits" of the trial court and their request for injunctive relief to "easily conclude" that the
\$75,000 amount in controversy requirement was met).

- b. <u>Citizenship of the Parties</u>. There is complete diversity of citizenship between the parties, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. Section 1332. As alleged in the Complaint, plaintiff is a citizen of Indiana. (Complaint ¶ 10.) At the time the state court action was filed, OMP was a corporation existing under the laws of the State of Delaware, with its principal place of business in New Jersey, and is now known as OMJPI, a corporation existing under the laws of the State of Pennsylvania, with its principal place of business also in New Jersey, and McKesson was and is a corporation existing under the laws of the State of Delaware, with its principal place of business in California. (Weiner Dec. ¶¶ 3, 4; Yonko Dec. ¶ 2.)
- Forum Resident Defendant McKesson has been Fraudulently Joined. C. Given that the forum defendant rule is procedural – and not jurisdictional – the fact that McKesson has its principal place of business in San Francisco does not prevent removal of this action. See, Wild Oats, supra. Further, the Court should disregard the rule, as plaintiff fraudulently joined McKesson as a "sham" defendant, solely in an effort to invoke the rule and to prevent OMP, now known as OMJPI, from removing the action to federal court and then transferring it to the Ortho Evra® MDL.

A defendant is fraudulently joined if "the plaintiff fails to state a cause of action against the defendant, and the failure is obvious according to the settled rules of the

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28 INKER BIDDLE & REATH LLP state." Morris v. Princess Cruises, Inc., 236 F.3d 1061, 1067 (9th Cir. 2001). "When determining whether a defendant is fraudulently joined, "[t]he court may pierce the pleadings, consider the entire record, and determine the basis of joinder by any means available." Maffei v. Allstate California Ins. Co., 412 F.Supp.2d 1049 (E.D.Cal. 2006), citing Lewis v. Time, Inc., 83 F.R.D. 455 (E.D.Cal. 1979) ("it is well settled that upon allegations of fraudulent joinder ... federal courts may look beyond the pleadings to determine if the joinder ... is a sham or fraudulent device to prevent removal"). If revealed that the joinder is fraudulent, the Court may dismiss the sham defendant. *Maffei, supra.* McKesson is so fraudulently joined here.

McKesson is fraudulently joined because plaintiff has not made any material allegations against it. See e.g. Brown v. Allstate Insurance, 17 F.Supp.2d 1134, 1137 (S.D.Cal. 1998) (finding in-state defendants fraudulently joined where "no material allegations" against those defendants were made). Here, as demonstrated by the Complaint, plaintiff's claims are substantively directed against the manufacturer of Ortho Evra® – OMP, now known as OMJPI, and not at McKesson. Indeed, none of plaintiff's factual allegations, on which all of her causes of action are based, involve McKesson. (See "General Allegations" at Complaint ¶¶ 24-39.) Specifically, plaintiff claims that: OMP obtained FDA approval of Ortho Evra®, despite concerns about its safety; OMP failed to appropriately warn users and prescribing health care providers of the alleged serious risks of using Ortho Evra®; OMP failed to properly or adequately investigate safety concerns about Ortho Evra®; OMP's conduct fell below the duty of care that it allegedly owed to plaintiff; OMP misrepresented the known risks associated with Ortho Evra®; OMP negligently and recklessly failed to inform the public and prescribing health care providers of the alleged risks of using Ortho Evra®; and OMP was careless and negligent in its manufacturing, testing, selling, distributing, merchandising, advertising, promoting, packaging, and marketing of Ortho Evra®. (Id.) Those allegations have

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¹ As detailed in its Answer, filed simultaneously with this Removal, OMP, now known as OMJPI,

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everything to do with the claimed acts and omissions of OMP, now known as OMJPI, and nothing to do with McKesson.

Filed 04/16/2008

The only factual allegations that do relate to McKesson fail to state a claim against that defendant. Plaintiff alleges that McKesson "distributed and sold Ortho Evra in and throughout the State of California," and that McKesson "packaged, distributed, supplied, sold, placed into the stream of commerce, labeled, described, marketed, advertised, promoted and purported to warn or to inform users regarding the risks pertaining to, and assuaged concerns about the pharmaceutical Ortho Evra." (Complaint ¶¶ 3, 19.) Notably absent is any allegation that plaintiff falls within the general class of "users" referenced by her conclusory allegations. Even more telling, plaintiff does not allege that McKesson distributed or sold Ortho Evra® to her or to any of her respective health care providers or pharmacists. (See Complaint.) Further, the Complaint lacks any allegation that McKesson sold or distributed Ortho Evra® outside the State of California or more specifically in Indiana, where plaintiff resides. The absence of such allegations compels the conclusion that plaintiff fraudulently joined McKesson in an attempt to prevent removal of this action to federal court. See e.g. Lyons v. American Tobacco Co., 1997 WL 809677 at *5 (S.D. Ala. 1997) (holding that there is "no better admission of fraudulent joinder" than the failure of plaintiff "to set forth any specific factual allegations" against the joined defendant).

In short, plaintiff fails to allege that she received Ortho Evra® sold or distributed by McKesson, a prerequisite to her product liability claims. It is essential that a plaintiff who claims that a product distributed by defendant was defective must prove that defendant was the distributor. Garcia v. Joseph Vince Co., 84 Cal.App.3d 868, 874 (1978) ("Regardless of the theory which liability is predicated upon ... it is obvious that to hold a producer, manufacturer, or seller liable for injury caused by a particular product, there must first be proof that the defendant produced, manufactured, sold, or was in some

denies plaintiff's allegations and denies that it is liable to plaintiff in any manner or sum whatsoever.

way responsible for the product"). Notwithstanding, given that the crux of plaintiff's claims is an alleged failure to warn of the alleged risks of using Ortho Evra®, there is no legal basis for the causes of action asserted against McKesson.

Under California law, McKesson bears no duty to warn. Rather, the "learned intermediary doctrine" provides that the duty to warn of a drug's risk runs from the manufacturer to the physician, and then from the physician to the patient. See Brown v. Superior Court (Abbott Labs.), 44 Cal.3d 1049, 1061-62, n.9 (1988); Carlin v. Superior Court (Upjohn Co.), 13 Cal.4th 1104, 1116 (1996). The rationale of the learned intermediary doctrine is that the physician is in the best position to determine whether a patient should use a prescription drug, and imposing a duty to warn on others would threaten to undermine reliance on the physician's informed judgment. For this reason, California courts have rejected imposing liability on distributors, including specifically McKesson, for failure to warn of the risks of using a prescription drug. See e.g. Barlow v. Warner-Lambert Co., Case No. CV-03-1647-R(RZx), Slip Op. at 2 (C.D.Cal. April 28, 2003) (attached as Ex. C to Weiner Dec.) ("the Court finds that there is no possibility that plaintiffs could prove a cause of action against McKesson, an entity which distributed [the prescription medication at issue] to pharmacists in California;" motion to remand denied); and Skinner v. Warner-Lambert Co., Case No. CV-03-1643-R(RZx), Slip Op. at 2 (C.D.Cal. April 28, 2003) (attached as Ex. D to Weiner Dec.) (same).

Further, McKesson had no involvement in the development or preparation of the prescribing information for Ortho Evra® and did not have any responsibility for the content of other written warnings concerning Ortho Evra®. (Yonko Dec. ¶ 5.) At no time has McKesson had any involvement with the manufacture, development, testing. packaging, labeling, advertising, promotion, or marketing of Ortho Evra®. (*Id.* ¶¶ 6-7.)

It is therefore a mystery why McKesson is named in this case, other than as a "sham" defendant to prevent OMP, now known as OMJPI, from removing the action to federal court and then transferring it to the Ortho Evra® MDL. Courts have consistently ruled that such collusive tactics are not to be recognized. See e.g. Attorneys Trust v.

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1	Videotape Computer Products, Inc., 93 F.3d 593 (9th Cir. 1996) (noting there is no more
2	reason for federal courts to countenance destruction of jurisdiction by the use of straw
3	parties than there is for them to countenance the creation of jurisdiction in that manner);
4	Grassi v. Ciba-Geigy, Ltd., 894 F.2d 181, 185 (5th Cir. 1990), citing American Law
5	Institute, Study of the Division of Jurisdiction Between State and Federal Courts, Official
6	Draft, at 169 (1969) ("Removal based on diversity of citizenship is a right conferred by
7	Congress, the need for which 'may well be greatest when the plaintiff tries hardest to
8	defeat it."").
9	d. <u>Citizenship of Doe Defendants</u> . Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. Section
10	1441(a), for purposes of removal, the citizenship of defendants Does 1-500 must be
11	disregarded because plaintiff sued those defendants under fictitious names.

REMOVAL TIMELY FILED

3. Service was made on the registered agent for service of process of OMP, now known as OMJPI, on March 21, 2008. (Weiner Dec. ¶ 3.) McKesson was served, via its registered agent, on March 24, 2008. (*Id.* ¶ 4.) Therefore, this Removal was timely filed within 30 days of service, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1446(b).

CONSENT TO REMOVAL

4. The only other named defendant, McKesson, was fraudulently joined, and its consent is therefore not required for removal; notwithstanding, McKesson consents to the removal by OMP, now known as OMJPI, of this action to this Court. (Weiner Dec. ¶ 4.)

STATE COURT WITHIN THE COURT'S JURISDICTION

5. The San Francisco County, California Superior Court, from which OMP, now known as OMJPI, removes this action, is within this Court's jurisdiction.

STATE COURT PLEADINGS

6. Copies of the state court pleadings known to OMP, now known as OMJPI, to have been filed in this action are collectively attached to the Weiner Dec. as Exhibit A.

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FILING AND SERVICE OF NOTICE OF REMOVAL AND REMOVAL

7. OMP, now known as OMJPI, will file a notice of the filing of this Notice of Removal and Removal in the San Francisco County Superior Court and will serve plaintiff's counsel with a copy. (Weiner Dec. ¶ 5.)

WHEREFORE, OMP, now known as OMJPI, hereby removes to this Court San Francisco County Superior Court Case No. CGC-07-469227.

Dated: April 6, 2008

DRINKER BIDDLE & REATH

Helany 8. W HILLARY S. WEINER

Attorneys for Defendants ORTHO-MCNEIL PHARMACEUTICAL, INC., now known as ORTHO-McNEIL-JANSSEN PHARMACEUTICALS, INC., and MCKESSON CORPORATION

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